

**A CROSS SECTIONAL STUDY TO ASSESS THE MORBIDITY
PATTERN OF AGRICULTURAL WORKERS IN VILLAGES OF
THANJAVUR, TAMIL NADU- 2016**

ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND:

The agricultural workers have an multitude of the occupational related health issues, In India .most of the population depend on agricultural sector either directly or Indirectly, little attention given to the occupational related health issues of these population. Objective: To assess the morbidity pattern of agricultural workers. Methodology: A cross sectional study was conducted in Agricultural workers in selected villages of Thanjavur. (August 2016 to February 2017) The sample size was 380. Multi stage sampling was done. Includes Both male and female workers involved in agriculture above the age of 18 years.Excluded Landlords who are not working in the field, Recent migrants Pregnant and lactating women .

Data collected through semi-structured self administered questionarrie. Official permission obtained from the Institutional Ethics Committee , Informed written consent from the participants. The data entered in MS Excel , analyzed using SPSS Version 16. Descriptive and Inferential analysis done by using Chi square test, Fisher's Exact test , p value less than 0.05 taken as significant.

RESULTS:

Among study population, 51.6% male and 48.4% female. The prevalence of heat related illness is the most common problem faced by agriculture workers (92.1%) followed by musculoskeletal disorder and respiratory problem (88.4%), dermatoses (78.9%), foot problem (75.8%), dental problem (68.4%), abdominal problem (64.2%), urinary problem (47.9%), gynaecological problem (30.7%), systemic illness except dermatoses high among planting and weeding labourers (p value < 0.05). Non communicable disease (10.3%) found to be high in mechanical labourers (p value < 0.05), stress and suicidal thoughts high in other manual labourers (p value < 0.05). Conclusion : proper training and application of personal protective measures, strengthen the occupational health services at the primary care level reduces the occupational health hazards in agriculture workers.

KEYWORDS:

Agriculture Workers, Occupational Health, Morbidity Pattern.